

NEW UNITED STATES UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION
under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)

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Atty. Docket No. 03273.75277

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box Patent Applications
Washington, D.C. 20231

Enclosed herewith is a new patent application and the following papers:

First Named Inventor (or application identifier): Kyu-Nam Kim

Title of Invention: Idle Handoff Controlling Method in Cellular Communication System

1. ☒ Specification 28 pages (including specification, claims, abstract) / 15 claims (3 independent)
2. ☒ Declaration/Power of Attorney is:
☒ attached in the regular manner.
☐ NOT included, but deferred under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f).
3. ☒ 6 Distinct sheets of ☒ Formal ☐ Informal Drawings
4. ☐ Preliminary Amendment.
5. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
☐ Form 1449
☐ A copy of each cited prior art reference
6. ☒ Assignment with Cover Sheet.
7. ☒ Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon the following application(s):

| Country | Application Number | Date of Filing (day, month, year) |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Korea | 97-34117 | 22 July 1997 |
| | | |

8. ☒ Priority document(s).
9. ☐ Statement Claiming Small Entity Status.
10. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix).
11. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission.
☐ Computer Readable Copy.
☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy).
☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies.

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12. Calculation of Fees:

| FEES FOR | EXCESS CLAIMS | FEE | AMOUNT DUE |
|--|----------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Basic Filing Fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a)) | | | \$790.00 |
| Total Claims in Excess of 20 (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c)) | 0 | 22.00 | \$0.00 |
| Independent Claims in Excess of 3 (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b)) | 0 | 82.00 | \$0.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d)) | 0 | 270.00 | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal - Filing Fee Due | | | \$790.00 |
| | REDUCE BY (%) (\$) | | |
| Reduction by 50%, if Small Entity (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) | 0 | | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL FILING FEE DUE | | | \$790.00 |
| Assignment Recordation Fee (if applicable) (37 C.F.R. § 1.21(h)) | 1 | 40.00 | \$40.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL DUE | | | \$830.00 |

13. PAYMENT is:

☒ included in the amount of the GRAND TOTAL by our enclosed check. A general authorization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.25(b), second sentence, is hereby given to credit or debit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for the instant filing and for any other fees during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18.

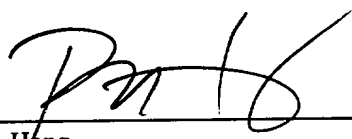
☐ not included, but deferred under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f).

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**IDLE HANDOFF CONTROLLING METHOD
IN CELLULAR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a cellular communication system, more particularly, to a method for controlling an idle handoff in a cellular communication system.

2. Prior Art

In a cellular communication environment, when a mobile station moves from a first cell to a second cell, it is necessary to transfer the mobile station's RF communication link with the first cell to the second cell. This operation is commonly called handoff. An idle handoff occurs when a mobile station such as a vehicle mounted telephone, a portable telephone, or a personal communication system handset has moved from the coverage area of one base station into the coverage area of another base station during the mobile station idle state.

If the mobile station detects a pilot channel signal from another base station, that is sufficiently stronger than that of the current base station, the mobile station determines that an idle handoff should occur. In the mobile station idle state, the mobile station continuously searches for the strongest pilot channel signal on the current code division multiple access(CDMA) frequency assignment whenever it monitors the

5 paging channel. If the mobile station determines that one of
the neighbor set or remaining set pilot channel signals is
sufficiently stronger than the pilot channel of the active set,
the mobile station should perform an idle handoff.

5 U.S. Patent No. 5,436,956 (issued to Hirofumi Shiotsuki et
al. on July 25, 1995) discloses a method and arrangement for
reducing the number of handoff requests in a cellular mobile
communications system.

FIG. 1 illustrates a conventional idle handoff controlling
method in a cellular communication system. In step S101, when
a user powers on a mobile station(not shown), the mobile
station searches for a first pilot channel having the strongest
strength on a current CDMA frequency assignment transmitted
from one of the plurality of base stations as an active base
station and measures a strength A of the first pilot channel
searched. That is, the ratio of received pilot energy per
chip, E_c , to total received spectral density(noise and
signals), I_t . That is, $A=E_c/I_t$.

In step S102, the mobile station searches for a second
pilot channel transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor
base stations (not shown) and measures a strength B of the
second pilot channel searched. $B=E_{c1}/I_{t1}$. In step S103, the
mobile station subtracts the first pilot channel strength A
with respect to the active base station from the second pilot
channel strength B with respect to the neighbor base station
which are stored in the memory 206 to obtain a strength

difference D. That is, $D = B - A$.

In step S104, the mobile station judges whether or not the strength difference D is greater than a threshold value C_{TH} between 2dB and 3dB. As the result of the judgement in step S104, when the strength difference D is greater than the threshold value C_{TH} , the mobile station starts to search for and monitor a paging channel of the neighbor base station so that the mobile station performs an idle handoff(step S105). Thus, the mobile station can communicate with other mobile stations(not shown) located in a service area of the neighboring base station. When it is judged that the strength difference D is less than or equal to the threshold value C_{TH} , the routine returns to step S101 and the above process with respect to other neighbor base stations except the neighbor base station already processed repeats.

In the conventional idle handoff controlling method, the threshold value is a fixed value from 2dB to 3dB. When the second pilot channel transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations is momentarily received stronger than the first pilot channel transmitted from an active base station, even when the strength of the first pilot channel is sufficiently strong, the mobile station should perform the idle handoff.

Accordingly, waste of a battery of the mobile station increases and arrival rate of the mobile station lowers due to frequent idle handoff. When the mobile station moves to another area, the mobile station should periodically provides the

information about the position thereof to the base station in order to receive a terminated call from a base station. Thus, a load of a reverse control channel is increased and communication efficiency of a reverse control channel becomes lower. Particularly, when a paging zone is changed, arrival rate of the mobile station lowers due to frequent idle handoff. It is therefore highly desirable to reduce the number of handoffs in order to provide the service of good quality.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention, for the purpose of solving the above mentioned problems, to provide an idle handoff controlling method for effectively reducing the number of idle handoff processes in a cellular communication system.

In order to attain the object, according to the present invention, there is provided an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular mobile communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) searching a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of a plurality of base stations as an active base station and measuring a strength of the first pilot channel;
- b) calculating a variable threshold value based on the first pilot channel strength measured in step a);
- c) monitoring a paging channel having a neighbor list of

the active base station having a plurality of neighbor base stations in synchronization with the first pilot channel;

d) measuring a strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations included on the neighbor list;

e) subtracting the first pilot channel strength from the second pilot channel strength to obtain a strength difference;

f) judging whether the strength difference is greater than the variable threshold value; and

g) controlling performance of an idle handoff according to the judgement result of step f).

Also, there is provided an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

i) searching a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations as an active base station and measuring a strength of the first pilot channel;

ii) monitoring a paging channel having a neighbor list of the active base station which has a plurality of neighbor base stations in synchronization with the first pilot channel;

iii) measuring a strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations in the neighbor list neighboring the active base station;

iv) subtracting the first pilot channel strength from the second pilot channel strength to obtain a strength difference;

v) judging whether the strength difference is greater than a threshold value;

vi) judging whether a state that the strength difference is greater than the threshold value lasts for a predetermined time interval when the strength difference is greater than the threshold; and

vii) controlling performance of an idle handoff according to a judgement result of step vi).

Also, there is provided an idle handoff controlling method, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) searching a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations as an active base station and measuring a strength of the first pilot channel;

(B) monitoring a paging channel having a neighbor list of the active base station which has a plurality of neighbor base stations in synchronization with the first pilot channel and storing the neighbor list;

(C) measuring a strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations in the neighbor list neighboring the active base station;

(D) subtracting the strength of the first pilot signal from the strength of the second pilot signal to obtain a strength difference;

(E) judging whether the strength difference is greater than a threshold value;

(F) judging whether step (E) is performed by a predetermined number; and

(G) controlling performance of an idle handoff according to a judgement result of step F).

5 According to the present invention, by reducing the number of the idle handoff in a cellular communication system, waste of a battery of the mobile station is reduced, arrival rate of the mobile station is increased, and communication efficiency of a reverse control channel becomes higher.

10 Other objects and further features of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description when read in conjunction with the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 Other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

20 FIG. 1 is a flow chart for illustrating a conventional idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a cellular communication system in order to illustrate an idle handoff controlling method according to the present invention;

25 FIG. 3 is a flow chart for illustrating an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a flow chart for illustrating an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a flow chart for illustrating an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system according to the third embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 6 is a view for showing measuring order of pilot channel strengths by the mobile station in FIG. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The preferred embodiment of the present invention will hereinafter be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 2 shows a configuration of a cellular communication system in order to illustrate an idle handoff controlling method according to the present invention. The cellular communication system includes a mobile station 20 and a plurality of base stations 101, 102, 103, ..., 10(N-1), and 10N (where, N is an integer). The mobile station 20 includes a key input section 202, a controller 204, a memory 206, a timer 208, and a counter 210. Key input section 202 includes a power button for powering on the mobile station 20.

Controller 204 searches for a pilot channel transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations 101, 102, 103, ..., 10(N-1), and 10N (where, N is an integer) having the strongest strength on a current CDMA frequency assignment as an active

base station 101 and measures a strength $A(N)$ (where, N is an integer) of the pilot channel searched. Controller 204 calculates a threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ based on the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101. Controller 204 searches for a paging channel on which a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active base station 101 in synchronization with the pilot channel transmitted from the active base station 101 and stores the neighbor list(K) in memory 206. The paging channel is an encoded, interleaved, spread, and modulated spread spectrum signal that is used by mobile stations operating within the coverage area of the base station. The base station uses the paging channel to transmit system overhead information and mobile station specific messages. Controller 204 searches for a pilot channel transmitted from the N -th neighbor base station and measures a strength $K(N)$ (where N is an integer) of the pilot channel of the N -th neighbor base station. Controller 204 subtracts the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101 from the strength $K(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the N -th neighbor base station. Controller 204 judges whether or not the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ and controls the performance of the idle handoff according to the judgement.

Memory 206 stores the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101 measured by

controller 204. Memory 206 stores the threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$. Memory 206 stores a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active base station 101 included on the paging channel therein. Memory 206 stores the strength difference $SD(N)$.
5 Timer 208 is reset by pressing a power button of a key input section 202 and counts a time interval TI which the state that the strength difference $SD(N)$ greater than the threshold value F_{TH} lasts when the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value F_{TH} . Counter 210 is reset by pressing a power
10 button of a key input section 202 and counts the executing number of the step of judging whether or not the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value $G_{TH}(N)$ when the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value G_{TH} .

15 EMBODIMENT 1

FIG. 3 illustrates an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

In step S301, when a user presses a power button of a key
20 input section 202 of a mobile station 20, a controller 204 of a mobile station 20 monitors a first pilot channel having the strongest strength on a current CDMA frequency assignment transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations 101, 102, 103, ..., 10(N-1), and 10N (where, N is an integer) as an
25 active base station. In step S302, the controller 204 measures a strength $A(N)$ (where, N is an integer) of the first pilot

channel searched in step S301, that is, the ratios of received pilot energy per chip, E_c , to total received spectral density (noise and signals), I_t . Then the controller 204 stores the pilot channel strength $A(N)$ with respect to the active base station 101 in the memory 206 (step S303).

In step S304, the controller 204 calculates a variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ based on the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101 stored in the memory 206 by means of the following equation.

Threshold value $V_{TH}(N) = f(A)$, where N is an integer

That is, the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ is a continuous or discrete function of the first pilot channel strength $A(N)$ with respect to the active base station 101 and changes proportional to the first pilot channel strength $A(N)$ with respect to the active base station 101. In an embodiment of the present invention, when the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ is a continuous function $f(A) = M \times A(N)$ (where, M is an integer) the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ is increased by M times of the first pilot channel strength $A(N)$ with respect to the active base 101 when the first pilot channel strength $A(N)$ is increased. Also, when the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ is a continuous function $f(A) = M \times A(N) + C$, (where M and C are integers), no matter how small the first pilot channel strength $A(N)$ is, the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ is greater than the C . On the other hand, when the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ is a discrete function, since the first pilot channel

strength $A(N)$ has a discrete value of $A(N) > X_1$, $A(N) > X_2, \dots$,
 $A(N) > X_{n-1}$, and $A(N) > X_n$, $A(N)$ has a value of $A(N) = f(X_1)$,
 $A(N) = f(X_2)$, \dots , $A(N) = f(X_{n-1})$, and $A(N) = f(X_n)$ (where, $X_1 >$
 $X_2 > \dots > X_{n-1} > X_n$ and $f(X_1) > f(X_2)$, \dots , $f(X_{n-1}) > f(X_n)$). That is,
5 since the first pilot channel strength $A(N)$ has a discrete
value, the variable threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$ discretely changes.

Then the controller 204 stores the threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$
 $= f(A)$ in the memory 206 (step S305). In step S306, the
controller 204 searches for a paging channel having a neighbor
list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active base station
10 which has a plurality of neighbor base stations transmitted
from the active base station 101 in synchronization with the
pilot channel searched in step S301.

In step S307, the controller 204 controls the memory 206 to
15 store a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active
base station included on the paging channel therein.
Preferably, in an embodiment of the present invention, the
active base station 101 includes nineteen neighbor base
stations.

20 In step S308, the controller 204 sets the number of a
neighbor base station message to be read to $1(N - 1)$. In step
S309, the controller 204 reads the message corresponding to an
N-th neighbor base station stored in the memory.

In step S310, a controller 204 searches for a second pilot
25 channel transmitted from the N-th neighbor base station
corresponding to the message read in step 309. In step S311,

the controller 204 measures a strength $K(N)$ (where N is an integer) of the pilot channel searched in step S310. Then the controller 204 stores the strength $K(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the N -th neighbor base station in the memory 206 (step S312).

In step S313, the controller 204 subtracts the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101 from the strength $K(N)$ of the second pilot channel with respect to the N -th neighbor base station which are stored in the memory 206 to obtain a strength difference $SD(N)$. That is, $SD(N) = K(N) - A(N)$. Then the controller 204 stores the strength difference $SD(N)$ obtained in step S313 in the memory 206 (step S314).

In step S315, the controller 204 judges whether or not the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$. As the result of the judgement in step 315, when the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$, the controller 204 searches for and monitor a paging channel of the N -th neighbor base station so that the mobile station 20 performs an idle handoff (step S316). Thus, the mobile station 20 can communicate with other mobile stations (not shown) located in a service area of the N -th neighboring base station. When it is judged that the strength difference $SD(N)$ is less than or equal to the threshold value $V_{TH}(N)$, the controller 204 judges whether or not the executing number N of step S315, is greater than the total number K of

the neighbor base stations(step S317).

As the result of the judgement in step S317, when the
executing number N of step S315 is greater than the total
number K of the neighbor base stations of the active base
station 101, the routine is completed. When it is judged that
the number N the judgement of step S315 is smaller than or
equal to the total number K of the neighbor base station, the
controller 204 searches for a pilot channel presently
transmitted from the active base station 101 and increases the
number of a neighbor base station message to be processed(step
S318). Then the routine returns to step S309 so that the above
processes with respect to a neighbor base station 2, a neighbor
base station 3,..., a neighbor base station N-1, and a neighbor
base station N are performed as shown in FIG. 6.

EMBODIMENT 2

FIG. 4 illustrates an idle handoff controlling method in
a cellular communication system according to the second
embodiment of the present invention.

In step S401, the controller 204 controls the memory 206
to store a threshold value F_{TH} therein before performing the
idle handoff. When a user presses a power button of a key input
section 202, a controller 204 controls the timer 208 to be
reset(step S402). In step S403, the controller 204 monitors a
pilot channel having the strongest strength on a current CDMA
frequency assignment transmitted from one of the plurality of
base stations 101, 102, 103,...10(N-1), and 10N (where, N is an

integer) as an active base station 101. In step S404, the controller 204 measures a strength $A(N)$ (where, N is an integer) of the first pilot channel searched in step S403, that is, the ratio of received pilot energy per chip, E_c , to total received spectral density (noise and signals), I_t . Then the controller 204 stores the pilot channel strength $A(N)$ with respect to the active base station 101 in the memory 206 (step S405).

In step S406, the controller 204 searches for a paging channel having a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active base station 101 which has a plurality of neighbor base stations transmitted from the active base station 101 in synchronization with the pilot channel searched in step S403. In step S407, the controller 204 controls the memory 206 to store a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active base station 101 included on the paging channel therein.

In step S408, the controller 204 sets the number of a neighbor base station message to be read to $1(N - 1)$. In step S409, the controller 204 reads the message corresponding to an n -th neighbor base station stored in the memory 206.

In step S410, a controller 204 searches for a pilot channel transmitted from the n -th neighbor base station corresponding to the message read in step S409. In step S411, the controller 204 measures a strength $K(N)$ (where N is an integer) of the pilot channel searched in step S410. Then the controller 204 stores the second pilot channel strength $K(N)$

with respect to the N-th neighbor base station in the memory 206 (step S412).

In step S413, the controller 204 subtracts the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101 from the second pilot channel strength $K(N)$ with respect to the N-th neighbor base station which are stored in the memory 206 to obtain a strength difference $SD(N)$. That is, $SD(N) = K(N) - A(N)$. Then the controller 204 stores the strength difference $SD(N)$ obtained in step S413 in the memory 206 (step S414).

In step S415, the controller 204 judges whether or not the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value F_{TH} which is stored in the memory 206. As the result of the judgement in step S415, when the strength difference $SD(N)$ is less than or equal to the threshold value F_{TH} , the controller 204 judges whether or not the executing number N of step S415 is greater than the total number K of the neighbor base station (step S416).

As the result of the judgement in step S416, when the executing number N of step S415 is greater than the total number K of the neighbor base stations of the active base station 101, the routine is completed. When it is judged that the executing number N of step S415 is smaller than or equal to the total number K of the neighbor base stations, the controller 204 searches for a pilot channel presently transmitted from the active base station 101 and increases the

number of a neighbor base station message to be processed(step S418). Then the controller 204 controls the timer 208 to be reset (step S418) and the routine returns to step S409 so that the above processes with respect to a neighbor base station 2,
5 a neighbor base station 3,..., a neighbor base station N-1, and a neighbor base station N are sequentially performed as shown in FIG. 6.

On the other hand, as the result of the judgement in step S415, when the strength difference SD(N) is greater than the threshold value F_{TH} , the controller 204 controls the timer 208 to count a time interval TI in which the state that the strength difference SD(N) is greater than the threshold value F_{TH} lasts(step S419).

In step S420, the controller 204 judges whether or not the time interval TI counted in step S419 is greater than a predetermined time interval T_{TH} . As the result of the judgement in step S420, when the time interval TI is greater than the predetermined time interval T_{TH} , the controller 204 searches for and monitors a paging channel of the N-th neighbor base station
15 so that the mobile station 20 performs an idle handoff(step S421). Thus, the mobile station 20 can communicate with other mobile stations(not shown) located in a service area of the N-th neighboring base station. When it is judged that the time interval TI is less than or equal to the predetermined time
20 interval T_{TH} , the routine goes to step S416.

EMBODIMENT 3

FIG. 5 illustrates an idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

In step S501, the controller 204 controls the memory 206 to store a threshold value G_{TH} therein before performing the idle handoff. When a user presses a power button of a key input section 202, a controller 204 controls the timer 208 to be reset(step S502). In step S503, the controller 204 searches for a pilot channel having the strongest strength on a current CDMA frequency assignment transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations 101, 102, 103, ..., 10(N-1), and 10N (where, N is an integer) as an active base station 101.

In step S504, the controller 204 measures a strength $A(N)$ (where, N is an integer) of the first pilot channel searched in step S403, that is, the ratio of received pilot energy per chip, E_c , to total received spectral density(noise and signals), I_t . Then the controller 204 stores the pilot channel strength $A(N)$ with respect to the active base station 101 in the memory 206(step S505).

In step S506, the controller 204 monitors a paging channel having a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active base station 101 which has a plurality of neighbor base stations transmitted from the active base station 101 in synchronization with the pilot channel searched in step S503.

In step S507, the controller 204 controls the memory 206 to store a neighbor list(K) (where K is an integer) of the active

base station 101 included on the paging channel therein. In step S508, the controller 204 sets the number of a neighbor base station message to be read to $1(N \rightarrow 1)$. In step S509, the controller 294 reads the message corresponding to an n-th neighbor base station stored in the memory 206.

In step S510, a controller 204 searches for a pilot channel transmitted from the n-th neighbor base station corresponding to the message read in step S409. In step S511, the controller 204 measures a strength $K(N)$ (where N is an integer) of the pilot channel searched in step S510. Then the controller 204 stores the second pilot channel strength $K(N)$ with respect to the N-th neighbor base station in the memory 206 (step S512).

In step S513, the controller 204 subtracts the strength $A(N)$ of the pilot channel with respect to the active base station 101 from the second pilot channel strength $K(N)$ with respect to the N-th neighbor base station which are stored in the memory 206 to obtain a strength difference $SD(N)$. That is, $SD(N) = K(N) - A(N)$. Then the controller 204 stores the strength difference $SD(N)$ obtained in step S513 in the memory 206 (step S514).

In step S515, the controller 204 judges whether or not the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the threshold value G_{TH} which is stored in the memory 206. As the result of the judgement in step S515, when the strength difference $SD(N)$ is less than or equal to the threshold value G_{TH} , the controller

204 judges whether or not the executing number N of step S515 is greater than the total number K of the neighbor base station(step S516).

As the result of the judgement in step S516, when the
5 executing number N of step S515 is greater than the total
number K of the neighbor base stations of the active base
station 101, the routine is completed. When it is judged that
the executing number N of step S515 is smaller than or equal to
the total number K of the neighbor base stations, the
10 controller 204 searches for a pilot channel presently
transmitted from the active base station 101 and increases the
number of a neighbor base station message to be processed(step
S418). Then the controller 204 controls the counter 210 to be
reset (step S518) and the routine returns to step S509 so that
15 the above processes with respect to a neighbor base station 2,
a neighbor base station 3,..., a neighbor base station N-1, and
a neighbor base station N are sequentially performed as shown
in FIG. 6.

On the other hand, as the result of the judgement in step
20 S515, when the strength difference $SD(N)$ is greater than the
threshold value G_{TH} , the controller 204 controls the counter 210
to count the performance number C of step S515(step S519). In
step S520, the controller 204 judges whether or not the
counting number C by the counting operation in step S519 is
25 greater than a predetermined number C_{TH} .

As the result of the judgement in step S520, when the

counting number C is greater than a predetermined number C_{TH} , the controller 204 searches for and monitors a paging channel of the N-th neighbor base station so that the mobile station 20 performs an idle handoff(step S521). Thus, the mobile station
5 20 can communicate with other mobile stations(not shown) located in a service area of the N-th neighboring base station. When it is judged that the counting number C is smaller than or equal to a predetermined number C_{TH} , the routine goes to step S516.

10 As mentioned above, according to the present invention, by reducing the number of the idle handoff in a cellular communication system, waste of a battery of the mobile station is reduced, calling of the mobile station is increased, and communication efficiency of a reverse control channel becomes
15 higher.

The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The present embodiments are therefore to be considered
20 in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An idle handoff controlling method in a cellular mobile communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

5 a) searching a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of a plurality of base stations as an active base station and measuring a strength of the first pilot channel;

10 b) calculating a variable threshold value based on the first pilot channel strength measured in step a);

c) monitoring a paging channel having a neighbor list of the active base station having a plurality of neighbor base stations in synchronization with the first pilot channel;

15 d) measuring a strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations included on the neighbor list;

e) subtracting the first pilot channel strength from the second pilot channel strength to obtain a strength difference;

20 f) judging whether the strength difference is greater than the variable threshold value; and

g) controlling performance of an idle handoff according to the judgement result of step f).

25 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the variable threshold value is proportional to the first pilot signal strength measured in step a).

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the variable threshold value is increased by a predetermined integer times of the first pilot channel strength with respect to the active base when the first pilot channel strength is increased.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein no matter how small the first pilot channel strength is, the variable threshold value is greater than a predetermined value.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the first pilot channel strength has a discrete value, the variable threshold value discretely changes.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the strength difference is greater than the variable threshold value in step f), step g) include performing an idle handoff with respect to the mobile station.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the strength difference is less than or equal to the threshold value in step f), step g) includes

g-1) judging whether an executing number of step f) is greater than the total number of the neighbor base stations;

g-2) searching for the first pilot channel having the

strongest strength presently transmitted from the active base station when the executing number of step f) is smaller than or equal to the total number of the neighbor base stations and increasing the number of a neighbor base station message to be processed; and

g-3) executing step d).

8. An idle handoff controlling method in a cellular communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

i) searching a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations as an active base station and measuring a strength of the first pilot channel;

ii) monitoring a paging channel having a neighbor list of the active base station which has a plurality of neighbor base stations in synchronization with the first pilot channel;

iii) measuring a strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations in the neighbor list neighboring the active base station;

iv) subtracting the first pilot channel strength from the second pilot channel strength to obtain a strength difference;

v) judging whether the strength difference is greater than a threshold value;

vi) judging whether a state that the strength difference is greater than the threshold value lasts for a predetermined time interval when the strength difference is greater than the

threshold; and

vii) controlling performance of an idle handoff according to a judgement result of step vi).

5 9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein when the strength difference is greater than the threshold value in step v), the method further comprising

viii) judging whether an executing number of step v) is greater than the total number of the neighbor base stations;

10 ix) searching for the first pilot channel having the strongest strength presently transmitted from the active base station when the executing number of step v) is smaller than or equal to the total number of the neighbor base stations and increasing the number of a neighbor base station message to be
15 processed; and

x) executing step iii).

20 10. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein when the state that the strength difference is greater than the threshold value lasts for the predetermined time interval in step vi), step vii) includes performing an idle handoff with respect to the mobile station.

25 11. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein when the state that the strength difference is greater than the threshold value lasts for a time interval shorter than the

predetermined time interval in step vi), step vi) includes

vi-1) judging whether an executing number of step v) is greater than the total number of the neighbor base stations;

vi-2) searching for the first pilot channel having the strongest strength presently transmitted from the active base station when the executing number of step v) is smaller than or equal to the total number of the neighbor base stations and increasing the number of a neighbor base station message to be processed; and

vi-3) executing step iii).

12. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein step vi) includes

vi-1) counting a time interval in which the strength difference greater than the threshold value lasts; and

vi-2) judging whether the time interval counted in vi-1) is greater than a predetermined time interval.

13. An idle handoff controlling method, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) searching a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of the plurality of base stations as an active base station and measuring a strength of the first pilot channel;

(B) monitoring a paging channel having a neighbor list of the active base station which has a plurality of neighbor base

stations in synchronization with the first pilot channel and storing the neighbor list;

(C) measuring a strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations in the neighbor list neighboring the active base station;

(D) subtracting the strength of the first pilot signal from the strength of the second pilot signal to obtain a strength difference;

(E) judging whether the strength difference is greater than a threshold value;

(F) judging whether step (E) is performed by a predetermined number; and

(G) controlling performance of an idle handoff according to a judgement result of step F).

14. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein when the state that the strength difference is greater than the threshold value lasts for the predetermined time interval in step (E), step (F) includes performing an idle handoff with respect to the mobile station.

15. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (F) includes

(F-1) counting performance number of step (E); and

(F-2) judging whether a counting number by the counting operation of (F-1) is larger than the predetermined number.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An idle handoff controlling method effectively reduces the number of idle handoff processes in a cellular communication system. In the method, a first pilot channel having the strongest strength transmitted from one of a plurality of base stations as an active base station is searched and a strength of the first pilot channel is measured. A variable threshold value based on the first pilot channel strength is calculated. A paging channel having a neighbor list having a plurality of neighbor base stations is monitored in synchronization with the first pilot channel. A strength of a second pilot signal transmitted from one of the plurality of neighbor base stations is measured. The first pilot channel strength from the second pilot channel strength is subtracted to obtain a strength difference. It is judged whether the strength difference is greater than the variable threshold value. Performance of an idle handoff according to the judgement result is controlled. In the method, by reducing the number of the idle handoff in a cellular communication system, waste of a battery of the mobile station is reduced, arrival rate of the mobile station is increased, and communication efficiency of a reverse control channel becomes higher.

FIG.1
PRIOR ART

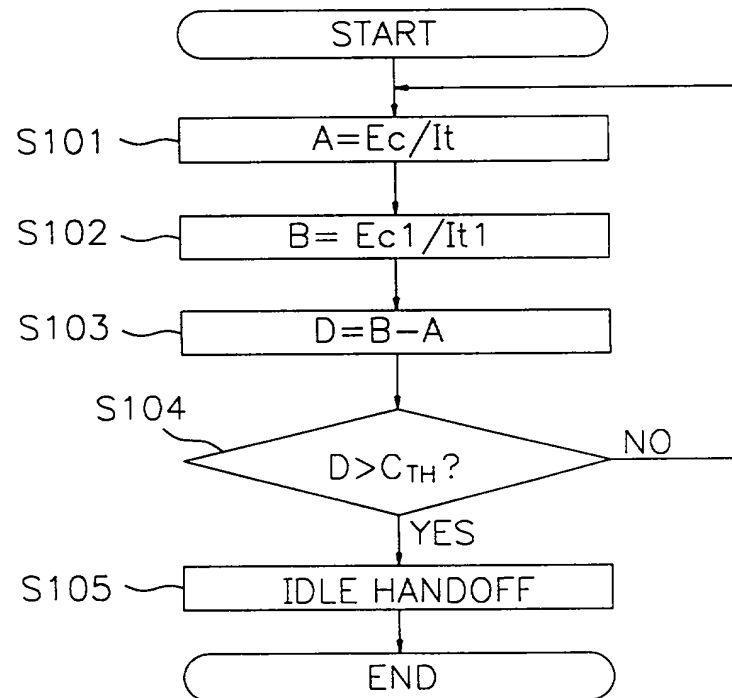


FIG.2

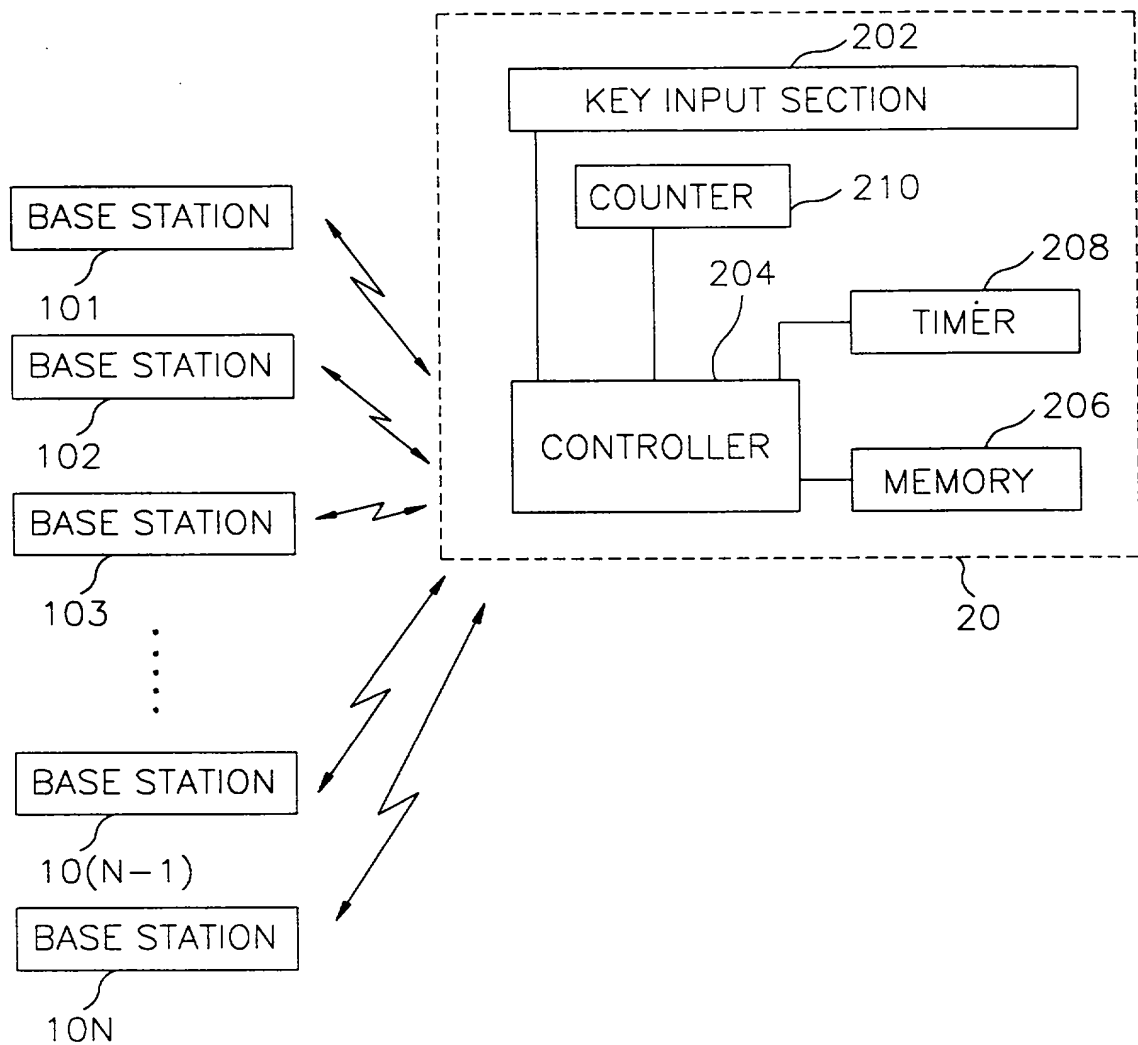


FIG.3

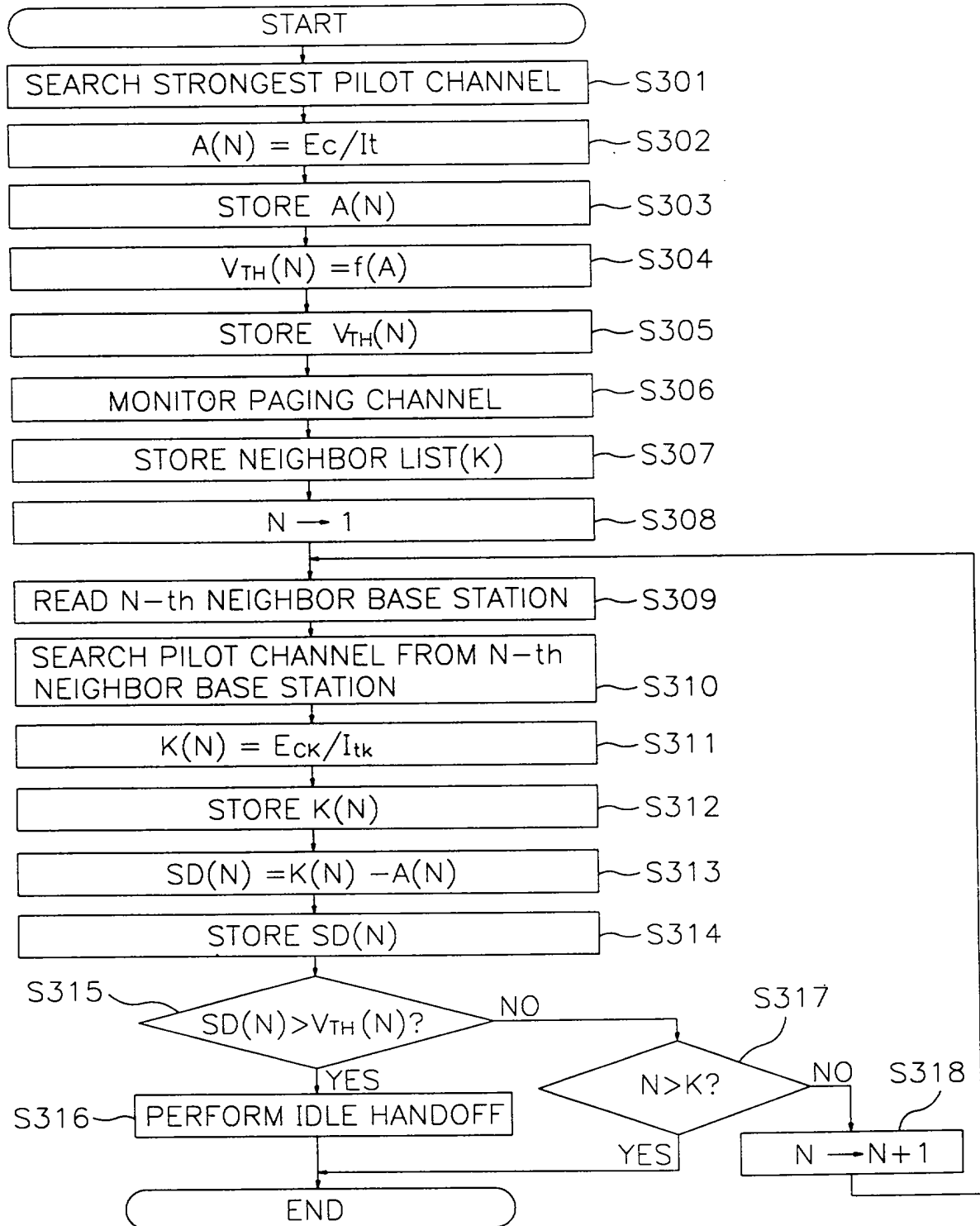


FIG.4

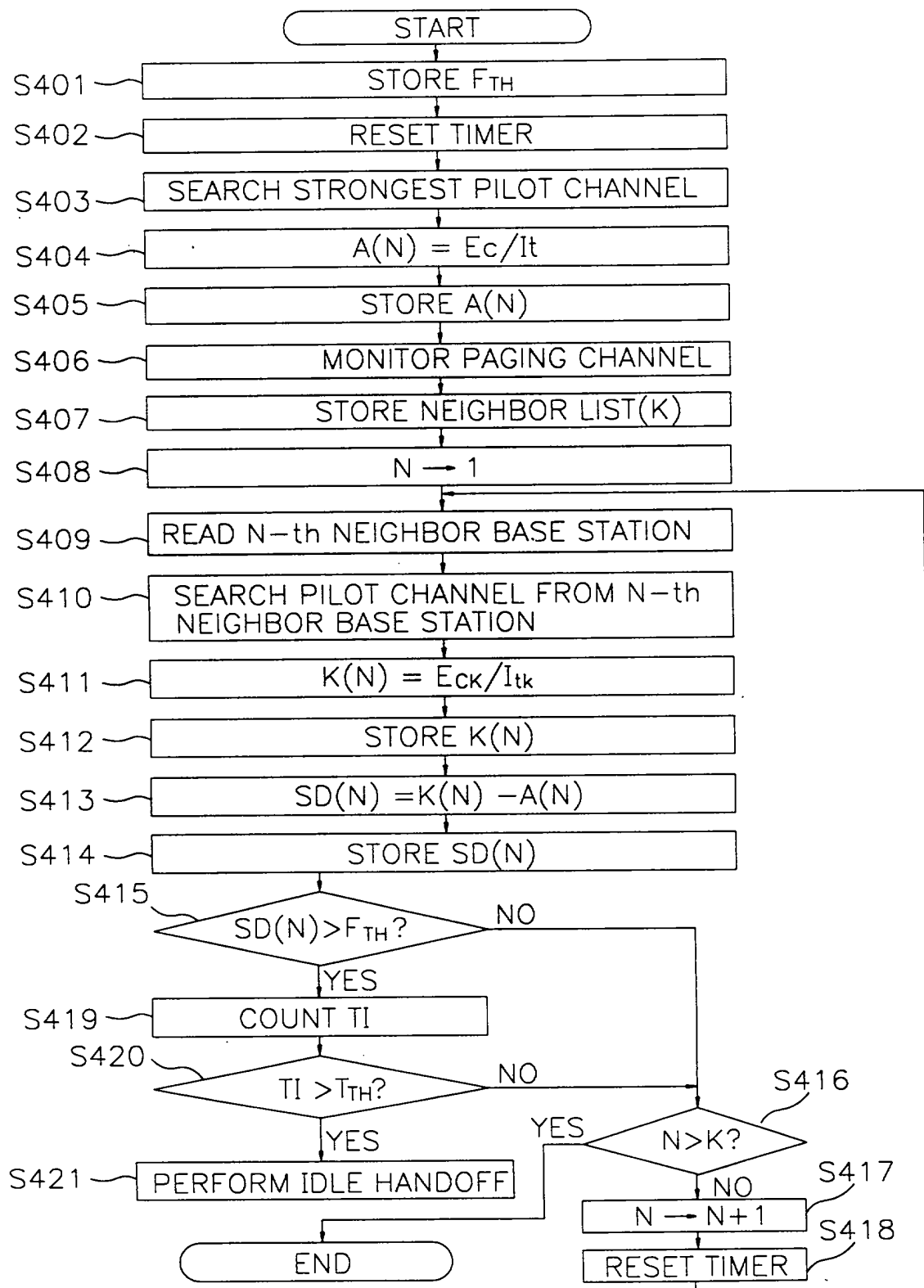


FIG.5

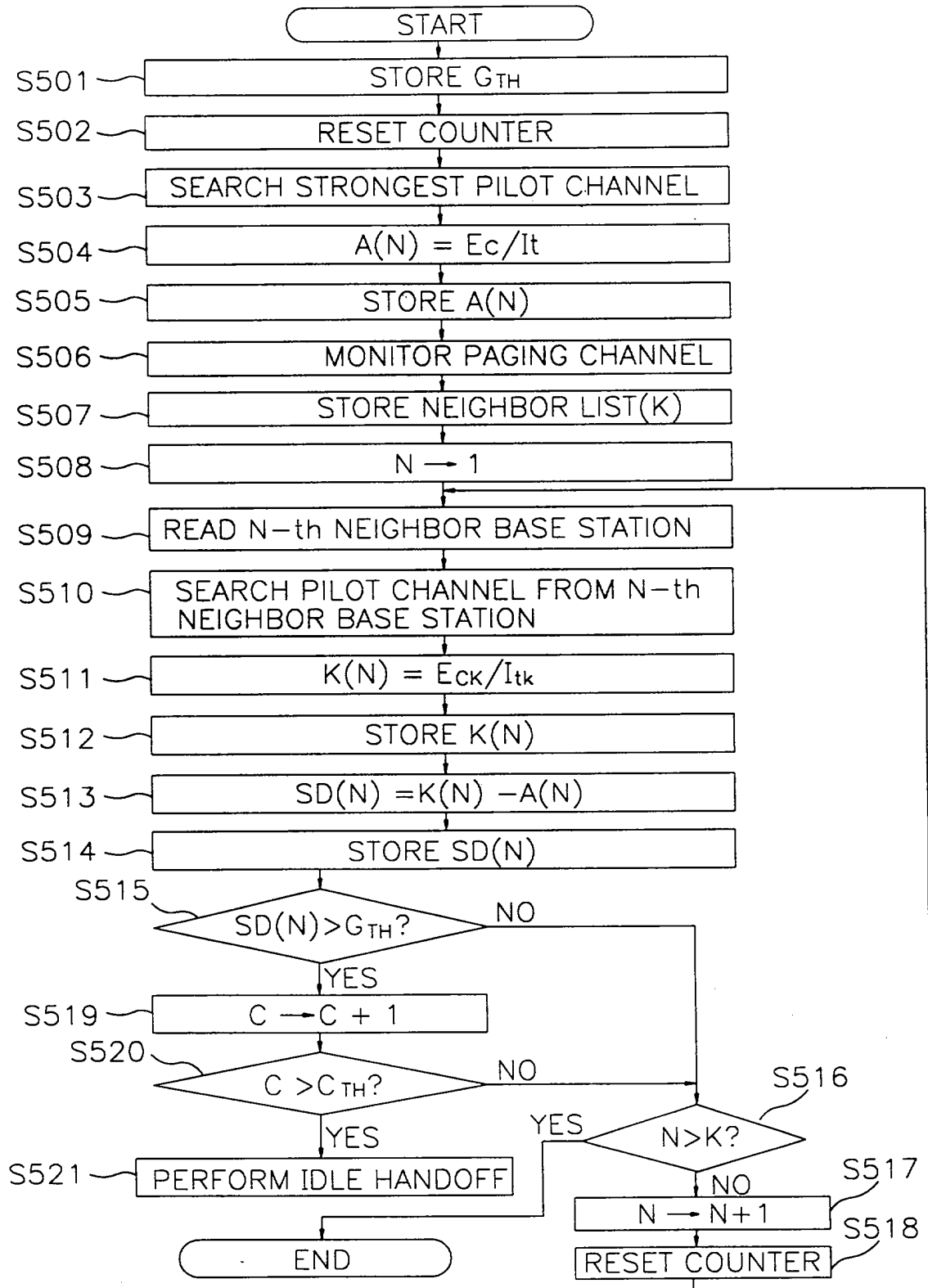
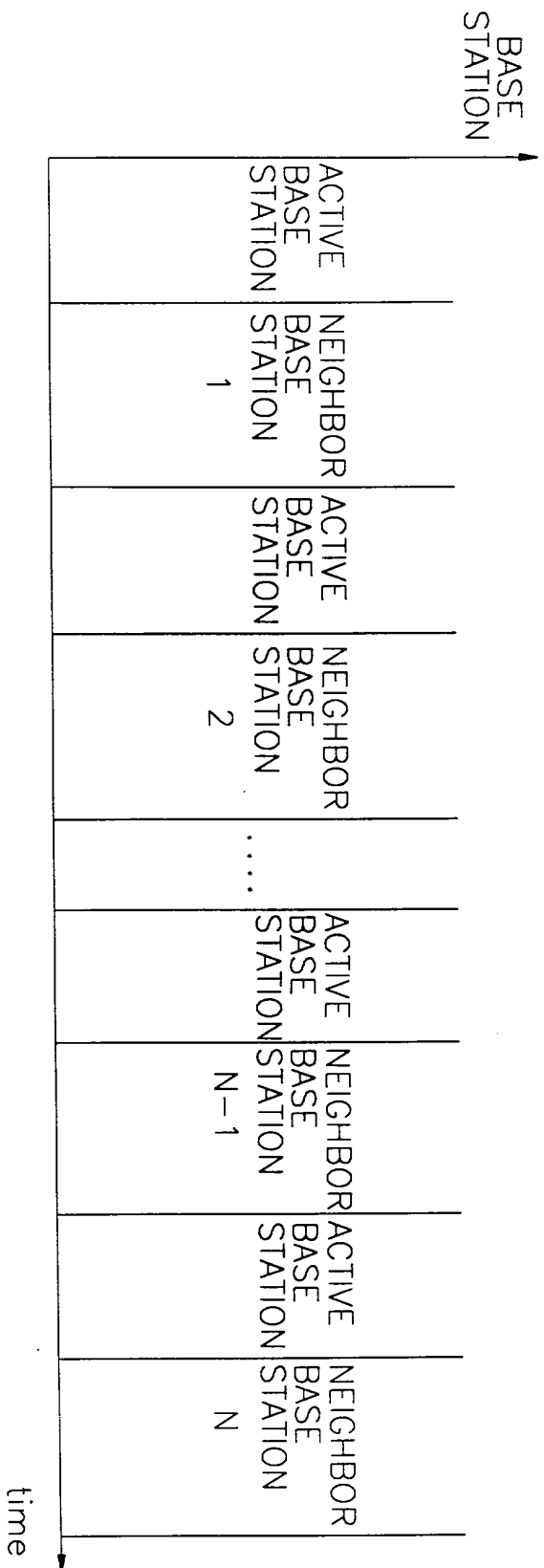


FIG.6



JOINT DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As the below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names;

We believe we are the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled IDLE HANDOFF CONTROLLING METHOD IN CELLULAR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, the specification of which

- ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).
☐ was filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty on _____ and accorded Application No. _____, the United States of America being designated.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

Prior Foreign Application(s)

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| Country | Application Number | Date of Filing (day, month, year) | Date of Issue (day, month, year) | Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. §119 |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Korea | 97-34117 | 22/07/1997 | | Yes |
| | | | | |

Prior United States Application(s)

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| Application Serial Number | Date of Filing (Day, Month, Year) | Status — Patented, Pending, Abandoned |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | |
| | | |

And we hereby appoint, both jointly and severally, as our attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith the following attorneys who are all members of the Bar of the District of Columbia, their registration numbers being listed after their names:

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We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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